GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4964
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2001
FREE MOVEMENT OF FOODGRAINS
CHINTAMAN NAVSHA WANAGA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide free movement of foodgrains throughout the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the advantages of this decision;

(c) whether the State Governments have also been consulted while taking this decision;

(d) whether the Government are monitoring for smooth implementation of all provisions of this decision;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) to (c): According to the present policy of the Central Government, the entire country is treated as a single food zone for inter-State and intra-State movement of foodgrains (wheat, paddy, levy-free rice, coarsegrains and pulses). On 26.3.1993, all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations were informed of this national policy of treating the entire country as a single zone. They were requested to ensure that there were no impediments in the movement of foodgrains. They were also advised to remove statutory restrictive provisions which may be impeding the inter-State and intra-State movement of foodgrains by sending formal proposals to Government of India for obtaining prior concurrence under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Removal of all restrictions on the movement of foodgrains will help in better distribution and availability of foodgrains all over the country. This will also enable the farmers to get the best price for their produce anywhere in the country.

(d) to (f): The State Governments/Union Territories are the implementing authorities of the Central Orders, in this regard. In response to this, all the States/Union Territories except the State Governments of Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have removed all restrictions on movement of foodgrains. The remaining three States have retained certain restrictions on inter-State movement of rice/paddy in order to maximize procurement or to prevent smuggling across the international borders.